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## A Panel depicting a King of Kushan

**Isao KURITA**

This huge panel, which is most probably of the statue of a king of Kushan, was brought to Japan a long time ago, but permission to publish it from the owner was not granted until now.

Belonging to one of the well-executed images of a Kushan king of the Kapisa school, this statue has all the characteristics of Kushan sculpture. The king is standing flanked by retainers, all clad in heavy Kushan coats and grooved trousers, whose ends are tied up as all other Kushan soldiers' trousers are.

The king's head is embellished with a diadem, which has almost been completely dug out. Long bands of hair hang down on both shoulders. He is wearing a necklace, which looks metallic, probably gold. On both shoulders, he has also round emblems though their designs are not clear (fig. 2). His left hand is on the hilt of a sword. The main figure on the hilt is a head of a *garuḍa* with its neck missing (fig. 3). We see one more sword, probably a dagger. Next to it, something is hanging, though we cannot identify what it is (fig. 4). At the level of the king's ankles, we find birds probably eagles (fig. 5).

One more important thing is that on his shoulders, the source of fire can be seen. Though the flames are broken off, their source remains clear (fig. 6) and hence, they seem to be emanating from his shoulders.

The expression on the bearded face of the king is very hard and fierce, resembling that on the Kushan kings' coins. The physiognomy is neither Hellenistic nor Gandharan at all, but Kapsian.

The person on the king's right is holding a bowl (fig. 7), perhaps containing something like food. This food is not for the king but probably offerings to the Buddha and hence, it seems that the king is visiting the Buddha with offerings.

The panel is broken between the king and the person on his right. Two heads of retainers are missing. The neck of the king is fortunately not broken. His nose has been restored but it might have been carried out in ancient times.

There is no inscription except for two letters in Kharoṣṭhī on either corner at the bottom, which were meant only for positioning the panel.

We cannot identify the king, but probably it is of a later Kushan king.

Fig. 1. Panel of a Khushan King. [Private collection, JAPAN]



**PLATE 18**

Fig. 2. Necklace and round emblems on shoulder.

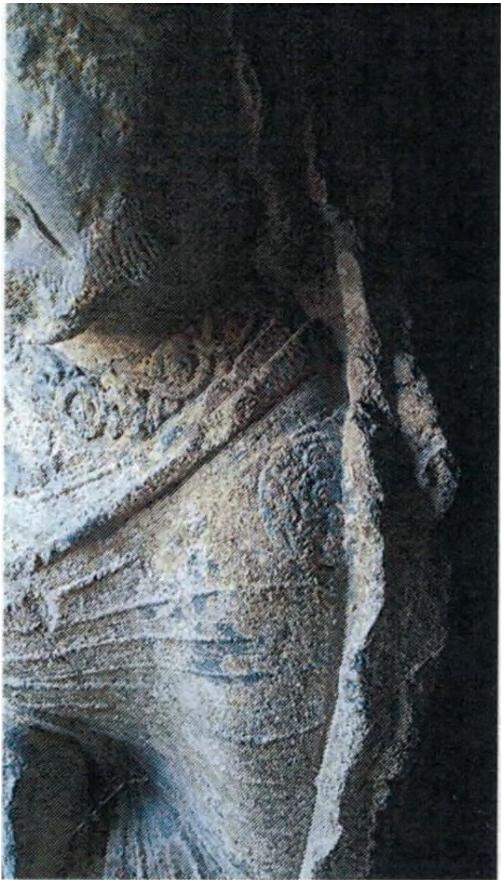


Fig. 3. Left hand.



Fig. 4. Sword.



Fig. 5. Eagle.

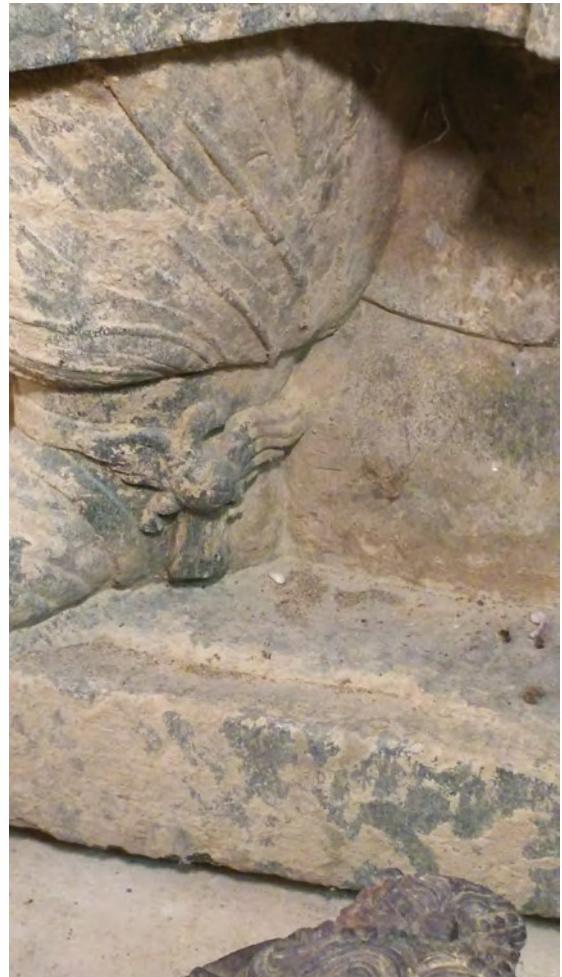


Fig. 6. Source of fire.



Fig. 7. Bowl.

